

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
June 10, 2019 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Jim Francisco, Angela Witzcak, Craig Schlender, Mike Plautz, Chantel Steinhorst & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Larry & Denise Brown (Driveway Easement), Diane Pillsbury, Ed Radl & Marlene Buchanon (BASCO Board of Directors) and 8 supporters of the senior center proposal

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Witzcak moved and Steinhorst seconded approval of the May 13, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Witzcak moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

Action Items: Larry and Denise Brown requested an easement at the entrance to Myron Park for access to the garage on property they are purchasing. They stated that as a condition of the easement suggested by City Engineer Pinion, they would blacktop the currently grass drive. Hardy stated that the current apron is used by mowers to get into the park, but didn't see an issue with the request provided they did not leave vehicles on park property or obstruct entrance to the park. Witzcak noted that she lives in the neighborhood and the current owner has been using the access forever as it is the only way to get to that side of the house. Franzen noted that there is a tree and power pole that would have to be removed in order for access to be anywhere else on the property. Witzcak moved to recommend that Council approve the resolution to allow the Browns to have an easement at Myron Park to use the driveway access. Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Francisco outlined the process that the subcommittee used to develop the draft proposal to have the City take over management of the Senior Center. He noted that the proposal started out extremely thick and had been cut down to an easier to digest format. Hardy stated his intent to have Commission provide input during June and July meetings, with a preferred recommendation to Council no later than August so that it could be considered for the 2020 budget if Commission and BASCO can develop a mutually agreeable plan. Hardy added that Council would need at least August, September and October to consider in order to have a chance at 2020 implementation. Marlen Buchanon spoke on behalf of BASCO Board of Directors, confirming their desire to move this forward. She added that BASCO's inability to provide benefits and a competitive salary to a director was the main reason they need to seek a new management organization to run the Senior Center, however BASCO would continue to provide major fundraising support to provide for senior programs, equipment and related costs. She stated that BASCO was prepared to provide funds for "transition costs" around \$1,500 for the purpose of IT, phone, equipment mergers with Civic Center network, etc. The current request is that the City fund a full time Director and part time assistant at a cost of \$78,000. Buchanon added that City residents would have free membership to the center, while non-residents would pay \$25 per year which the City would retain (approximately \$3,000 projected revenue) for a total budget request of \$75,000. Franzen responded that BASCO will need to continue to provide fundraising levels at or above current levels in order for this to be considered, as the Department is already under budgeted and while Hardy brings in a lot of grants for parks and rec, there is no money to spare. Schlender noted that for years the parks department has been understaffed, and while he supports the efforts, he would find it difficult supporting new staff for a new program when park maintenance continues to be understaffed. Franzen added that it is likely that eventually the Commission will recommend it to Council as everyone is in support of making sure the senior center continues to thrive, but we need to see more financial detail before moving it forward. Buchanon agreed to get the information asked and provide more detail on current funding for consideration at the next meeting.

Hardy presented an e-mailed request from Evan and Marcia Wollschlager to use the Riverwalk Bridge at Lower Ochsner Park for a wedding August 30th. Hardy met with the couple regarding their daughter's wedding and stated that staff could authorize the use of Lower Ochsner Park, but the use to use the bridge would have to be approved by the commission as it would disrupt Riverwalk users. The request also asked for parking stalls at Lower Ochsner to be blocked off for the event. Franzen noted that he could support the vows being said on the bridge as long as it didn't exceed 30 minutes or so, but would not support closing the entire parking lot – however he did suggest that a few of the closer stalls could be reserved for additional ADA parking they may need. Franzen moved to approve use of the bridge for wedding vows August 30, 2019, seconded by Schlender. Motion passed.

Witzcak moved to approve SUDA use of Lower Ochsner Park for soccer program June-August, 2019 at a cost of \$750, second by Francisco. Motion carried.

Hardy discussed rising requests for reserved parking at the Civic Center by tenants. He suggested a policy as part of future leases. Franzen recommended that each tenant be allowed to have 1 reserved space for free with each additional space \$30 per month beginning in 2020. Seconded by Witzcak. Motion carried.

Hardy stated that after last month's park tour determined Attridge Park as the best site for a new dog park, he was approached by the homeowner who lives on the north side of the park who stated that he and others on Island Drive would oppose the plan. Hardy had told him that discussions were still in their infancy and that area residents are always noticed before action is formally taken in these matters to allow for comments. Hardy had told the resident that the matter was on tonight's agenda for further discussion, but as the Community Garden would be there through at least October and no budget money was available in 2019, there would likely be no action taken until the budget is discussed in August. Members confirmed their preference to convert the Attridge Park Community Gardens into a dog park. Schender asked if the entrance to the fenced in area could be placed as far south (closer to 2nd Ave.) as possible to avoid traffic and noise concerns by Island Drive residents. Hardy showed a map where it would be possible to do so, as well as provide additional landscape screening between the dog park and adjacent property. Hardy added that Island Court residents will be notified when the matter is ready for Commission vote so they can attend and support or oppose. The matter will be considered at a future meeting.

The request from Clay Ministries to use Civic Center showers during a bike trip here (staying at a local church) was discussed. Hardy stated that when we receive this type of request, we usually recommend that they purchase a daily gym membership or reserve the gym as a group which allows for use of the lockers and showers. Franzen noted that we should continue that policy. The request failed for lack of a motion.

Staff Report: May revenues were \$27,081.49

Hardy reported that Bike Wisconsin will be staying overnight at the Civic Center Thursday night with over 100 bikers expected. The swimming pool opened June 7th with a pool manager, 15 lifeguards, 3 pool attendants and two adult water aerobics instructors. 3 new interns started over the past 2 weeks, one in the office and 2 in the zoo. The Maxwell-Potter kayak launch project is scheduled for bid opening this week and pending successful bids will be started soon. Also the Ochsner Park Centennial event is shaping up and will be held August 10 with several members of the Ochsner family in town for a reunion. Donations received will pay for the entire event.

Next Regular Meeting: July 8, 2019.

Witczak motioned to adjourn, Francisco seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director